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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 897  
By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to commend the First Tennessee Bank and First Tennessee Foundation for their unyielding support of the new Memphis-Shelby County Public Library and Information Center.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize members of the private sector who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the First Tennessee Bank and First Tennessee Foundation are two such entities, which have been tireless supporters of the newly constructed Memphis-Shelby County Public Library and Information Center; and

WHEREAS, the City of Memphis and Shelby County now have a central library for the enjoyment and education of all residents; and

WHEREAS, Memphis and Shelby County citizens alike can now enjoy the new library, which occupies 330,000 square feet, contains nearly two million items in its collection, and is equipped with a board room and separate meeting space to accommodate groups of all sizes, private study rooms and over one hundred Internet-ready public computers; and

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WHEREAS, a breathtaking facility which offers a new world of architectural beauty to the residents of Memphis and Shelby County, the Library is home to nine works of public art, beautifully crafted by skilled artisans and privately funded by those who saw the need to make the library a magical experience for the eye; and

WHEREAS, the Library serves the Memphis and Shelby County communities by fulfilling its mission to satisfy the citizen's need to know; and

WHEREAS, the library's foundation, chaired by the esteemed community leader Dr. E. Charles Leonard, has committed to raise \$20 million from private sources to enhance the library's collections, endowments, technology, programs, equipment, fixtures and furnishings; and

WHEREAS, Memphis and Shelby County are extremely fortunate to have the unflagging support of such private donors as the First Tennessee Bank and First Tennessee Foundation, which have shown an extraordinary commitment to literacy and visionary efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby join with the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County in honoring the First Tennessee Bank and First Tennessee Foundation for their tireless dedication, service, and contributions to the wonder and excitement that lies within the walls of the Memphis-Shelby County Public Library & Information Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.